REMARKS

Claims 3-7 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, and claims 3-7 have been amended.

Claims 1-7 have been objected to for various informalities, and rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for the reasons set forth at page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-7 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 has been rendered moot with the cancellation of those claims. Claims 3-7 have been amended to overcome all of the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and claims 3 and 6 have been rewritten into independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all remaining claims 3-7 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: October 30, 2003

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